THE windflower RESORTS SPA Mysuru
WE ARE
OPEN
with safety measures to protect you...
Call: 9845209797

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 44 No. 144 Pages: 12 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Monday 12th July 2021
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

Tourism shows signs of gradual recovery

More than 16,000 tourists visit Palace and Zoo since July 5

A group of tourists at the Mysuru Zoo this morning.

Mysuru, July 12 (SBD&BCT)- For the hospitality and tourism sector, 2021 is all about survival and recovery. With a double drop in terms of income and also in the number of tourists, thanks to uninvited guest Coronavirus pandemic checking-in, the city's tourism sector has taken a severe beating.

Now with the number of COVID positive cases and death rate declining day-by-day and businesses also seeing growth slowly, tourists too have begun visiting their favourite destinations in Mysuru. The footfall at Mysore Palace, Mysuru Zoo, Karanji Lake and Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Srirangapatna, is increasing. More than 16,000 tourists have visited the Palace and the Zoo since July 5.

On July 5, 444 tourists visited the Palace, on July 6, the number grew to 760 tourists. On July 7, 535 visitors came here, on July 8, 695 and on July 9 (Friday), the Palace recorded 1,111 visitors.

The last weekend saw more tourists as 1,671 people visited the Palace on Saturday (July 10) and on Sunday (July 11), a footfall of 2,736 was recorded. The Palace authorities are hoping that the footfall will be more in the coming days.

Mysuru Zoo and Chamundi Hill

Even the Mysuru Zoo saw encouraging footfalls, prompting the Zoo management to hope for more visitors in the coming days, especially after the SSLC exams are over.

While the last weekend saw more than 5,000 tourists, from July 5, more than 8,000 tourists had a chance to see a slice of wildlife in captivity.

Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy said that last Saturday, 2,200 people visited the Zoo and yesterday, the Zoo saw a footfall of over 3,500. "The number is good compared to the day when the Zoo was reopened after the lockdown was lifted last year. We hope with vaccination and SSLC exam, more families will arrive," he said. The Zoo will remain closed on Tuesdays.

With regard to Chamundi Hill, another favourite spot for tourists, there was no footfall recorded last weekend as the District Administration has banned tourist entry in view of a large number visiting the Hill Temple during the on-going Ashada month.

Wary parents collect SSLC exam hall tickets

High Court dismisses PIL; gives green signal for holding exams

Parents collecting hall tickets at Rotary School in city this morning.

Mysuru, July 12 (LNY& BCT)- Amidst the crisis of Coronavirus pandemic, there is a clamour for cancelling the Karnataka Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams 2021 that are scheduled to be conducted on July 19 and July 22. Over 8 lakh students will appear for the exams.

The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) has started issuing hall tickets for the examination from today and interestingly, wary of their wards catching infection, parents themselves arrived at the admit card issuing centres in the city.

At the Rotary School on JLB Road where the admission tickets were being issued this morning mostly it was parents who came to collect the cards on behalf of their wards while the students stayed away. Many other centres like the Avila Convent will issue the hall tickets from tomorrow.

"We have personally come here to collect the hall tickets as we are scared and would not want to put children at risk. Though the Department and the Minister concerned have assured us that exams will be conducted in a safe environment, we are apprehensive as the Government will not take responsibility for our children," said a mother who wanted to be anonymous.

(See SSLC on page 7)

Intelligent Transport System needs intelligent handling

Mysuru, July 12 (SPN&BCT)- The much-touted Intelligent Transport System (ITS) that Mysuru implemented in 2012 to bring in the much-needed efficiency and safety in public transport service is defunct now and a victim of an unintelligent or call it negligent and callous approach.

However, the authorities of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) cite a COVID excuse to shirk off the responsibility. After the project was implemented in Mysuru, it had become a model for other cities to emulate and now the entire project is in shambles. Even if the system has to be re-implemented, first the infrastructure has to be restored to its original condition.

The defunct LED display screen (circled) at a bus shelter in city.

After the project — estimated at Rs. 23 crore — was implemented, there was a drastic dip in fatal accidents, it reduced the number of personal vehicles on roads, improved punctuality rate of over 90 percent in the operations and achieved less than 10 minutes waiting time for passengers at bus shelters.

(See TRANSPORT on page 7)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 12th July 2021

Columbia Asia holds Drive-Through Vaccination programme at Forum Mall

A beneficiary being vaccinated during the Drive-Through Vaccination Programme at Forum Centre City Mall in Mysuru on Saturday.

COLUMBIA ASIA
A unit of ManipalHospitals

FORUM CENTRE CITY
HOME.WORK.FORUM

Mysuru, July 12- To make the COVID-19 vaccination programme accessible and hassle-free to the public, Columbia Asia Hospital, Mysuru (A unit of Manipal Hospitals), along with Forum Centre City Mall, Mysuru, had organised a drive-through vaccination programme at the Mall premises in city on July 9 and 10.

In all, 102 doses of Covishield vaccine was administered to people during the drive at the price (Rs.780) fixed by the Government.

Nitesh, who got inoculated at the camp, said: "It is a one of its kind vaccination drive and we are happy that Columbia Asia Hospital and Forum Centre City Mall came forward for such a unique initiative."

Speaking about the drive, Dr. Gautam Das, General Manager, Columbia Asia Hospitals, Mysuru, said: "Prioritising the safety and convenience of people, we have organised drive-through vaccination camp in the Mall. Our staff and nurses were stationed here to make the entire process hassle-free. We urge the citizens to continue wearing masks and practice social distancing and keep themselves safe as the battle with COVID-19 is not yet over."

R. Dhanasekaran, Centre Head, Forum Centre City Mall, Mysuru, said: "We tried to encourage the citizens of Mysuru to get inoculated through this drive and people were administered the vaccine in the comfort of their cars/ two-wheelers without having to step out of the vehicle."

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Music can help babies that are born preterm. Preterm generally refers to babies born before the 37th week of pregnancy. These babies are more likely to have developmental deficits, which include a higher risk for behavioural, cognitive and socio-emotional difficulties and lower academic achievements. These difficulties can arise because of the interrupted brain development (due to the early birth) or because of the NICU environment (with high levels of stress, noise, pain and separation from mother). And while, as I've said before, music should never be an alternative or substitute for medical care, it can sometimes help and support treatment that is already being received. The connection between music and social emotional learning in children is well-established but is both fascinating and important to see the relationship between infants and music. It has been shown earlier that introducing music to babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has short-term benefits, but with this study, it is seen that musical intervention with preterm babies can show benefits at even 12 and 24 months of age. Listening to familiar music daily supported and enhanced brain development. While there's still a long way to go to understand this completely, this is a strong case for the inclusion of music from birth.

— Bindu and Ambi Subramaniam in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

This burger costs a whopping 6,000 dollars

Rotterdam: The Golden Boy, a decadent delicacy made with 100 percent Wagyu A5, Beluga caviar, king crab, white truffle, among other premium ingredients, has just broken the record for world's most expensive burger, with a price of 5,000 euros ($6,000).

The Golden Boy burger was created by Robbert Jan de Veen, owner of Dutch restaurant De Daltons, who came up with the idea while sitting in his restaurant pretending to get some work done. As he browsed the internet to pass the time, he stumbled over the previous record for the world's most expensive burger, held by an Oregon restaurant that made a $5,000 burger that weight a whopping 352 kilograms, back in 2011. He found it cool, but decided he could make an even more expensive burger, and one that could actually be finished by one person.

Realistic fish-like underwater robot

Beijing: An ultra-realistic underwater drone that looks like an Arowana fish, has been getting a lot of attention online, after making its debut at a Beijing Military Expo recently.

The Beijing Military Expo opened on June 5, but it wasn't the tanks, missiles and other potentially lethal military equipment that drew attention. It was a rather strange arowana fish swimming in a large water tank installed on site that caught the attention of all. At first glance, it was just a fish that seemed to swim and behave normally. It would swim around normally and raise its head for a while whenever it reached a wall, then just wing its tail again and swim in another direction. At first glance, its appearance and movements were those of an actual fish and it was only on close inspection that one realized this was an advanced fish-like robot.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Give a thought to your heart health at least once a day – It beats incessantly for you one lakh times a day

By Dr. C B Keshavamurthy - Consultant Interventional Cardiology

COLUMBIA ASIA
COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE
A unit of ManipalHospitals

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Many nutritionists consider Manuka honey to be the queen of honey. It is produced by bees who pollinate the Manuka bush in New Zealand. Manuka honey is unique among honeys because of its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	JULY 10	JULY 11
Day's Positive Cases	211	261
Total Positive Cases	1,69,515	1,69,776
Day's Discharges	381	352
Total Discharges	1,64,125	1,64,477
Day's Deaths	2	2
Total Deaths	2,235	2,237
Total Active Cases	3,155	3,062

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

New Medical Colleges to be built on PPP model in 9 Districts

Davangere, July 12 (UNI) - Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar on Saturday said that the Government has an objective to build Medical Colleges on the PPP model in nine Districts across Karnataka.

Speaking to the media after visiting the new Medical College building here, he said there was a debate on building a Hospital on the PPP model and the same would be built in nine Districts. "There is no College at Taluk-level and the matter has been requested and will be considered," he said adding if there are four acres available in Davangere city, Jayadeva Cardiology Institute could be built.

So far two-and-a-half-crore vaccines have been administered in the State and more supply is expected from the Centre in the coming days, he said. "The State Government is upgrading 250 Primary Health Centres. 2,500 centres in the State would be upgraded in five years," he said.

REALLY...?

- ***The rubber balloon that we know today was first discovered by a scientist, Michael Faraday. He made rubber bags during one of his experiments and filled it with gas in order to study it. The rubber bags were made out of two round rubber sheets laid together. The edges of the sheets were pressed which caused them to stick to each other. He then lined the rubber bag with flour to prevent them for sticking together.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A man tells his wife, *"Honey, your mom fell down the stairs 15 minutes ago."*
The wife yells at him, *"Why are you just telling me now?"*
He said, *"Because I couldn't stop laughing!"*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.45
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.38
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.27
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.32

VOICE OF THE READER

Political Leadership and State's Prosperity

Sir,

This refers to the article titled ***'Political Leadership and State's Prosperity'*** published in *Star of Mysore* on Saturday last under *Black & White* column.

In his article, columnist Vikram Muthanna refers to a mobile phone company that had approached the previous Karnataka Government for land to set up a manufacturing unit. Since I had heard of this episode, I would like to share it with your readers:

The Chief Minister, while outright refusing to give any concession, the CEO had told him about the offer he had from Andhra Pradesh. The response was on these lines: "Bengaluru has very good climate and *vastu* for industries. Which is why everybody wants to come here no matter what it costs. When you want to give your daughter in marriage to a good, rich boy, will you not choose a boy from Bengaluru? Do you care spending more on her wedding?"

Of course, he said this with a sly smile. But the industrialist got nothing and wisely shifted to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh where he is prospering —*vastu* or no *vastu*.

—Name withheld on request

Mysuru
12.7.2021

Supreme Head of Orthodox Syrian Church Baselios Marthoma passes away

Kottayam, July 12 (UNI) - Supreme Head of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church His Holiness Moran Mor Baselios Marthoma Paulose II passed away at Parumala St. Gregorios Hospital, near Thiruvalla in the early hours of today. He was 75.

Baselios Marthoma was on treatment for one-and-half-years and on ventilator support since the past few days.

He was the 91st reigning Catholicos of the East.

The funeral services will be held on Tuesday afternoon at the Catholicate Palace Chapel in Devalokam here.

He was elected as the 21st

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II

Metropolitan of Malankara Orthodox Diocese and as the youngest Catholica Bava on Nov. 1, 2010.

It was during his time, the Supreme Court delivered the order on July 3, 2017, clearing the long-standing dispute among the Orthodox Churches.

Kerala CM condoles

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in his condolence message said, "Baselios Marthoma Paulose was a great shepherd who held human values close to his heart. He was instrumental in bringing women into the various responsibilities of the Church. In his lifetime, he strived for the betterment of poor and downtrodden. Baselios Marthoma Paulose has left behind a mark in the social and cultural fields of the society too."

Centre gives Rs.1,500 crore financial aid for COVID management in Karnataka

Bengaluru, July 12 (KMS&DM)- As Karnataka prepares to take on the possible third wave of COVID attack, which is predicted to happen in a couple of months, Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said that the Centre has provided a financial assistance of Rs.1,500 crore for tackling the deadly virus.

Speaking after launching the vaccination drive at a Private Hospital in Bengaluru's Jayanagar yesterday, Dr. Sudhakar said the State Government is aware of the co-operation extended by Private Hospitals when the pandemic broke out last year.

Maintaining that the State Government is making all possible efforts to ensure that Karnataka becomes a model State in health care, he said that the support of Private Hospitals was vital in this regard.

Pointing out that the Union Government has set aside Rs.23,000 crore in case of a third wave, out of which Karnataka has got Rs.1,500 crore, he said that a major portion of this money will be used for upgrading paediatric health care as the third wave is predicted to affect children the most.

Suttur Mutt to hold alcohol de-addiction camp

Mysuru, July 12- Suttur Mutt and JSS Mahavidyapeetha will be conducting its 9th free alcohol de-addiction camp at Suttur Sri Shivarathri Mangala Mantapa in Nanjangud from July 23 to Aug. 1.

Only 150 people will be allowed to participate in the camp which will be held with all COVID guidelines in place.

Participants must bring their own clothes and blanket. For details, contact Mob: 99454-94612 or 94486-53897 or 98864-76142 or 98458-64248, according to a press release from JSS Mahavidyapeetha.

WANTED

One acre Panchayat or Agriculture land, little outskirts to Mysore for immediate purchase with clear title.

Call : 8095222608 / 9591771771

Brokers Excuse

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Today	:	88.38 feet
Yesterday	:	88.76 feet
Inflow	:	1,618 cusecs
Outflow	:	1,402 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2,276.05 feet
Inflow	:	4,192 cusecs
Outflow	:	1,700 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,845.36 feet
Inflow	:	3,564 cusecs
Outflow	:	80 cusecs

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
Mysuru Campus
ADMISSIONS 2021
Education for Life. Education for Living.
www.amrita.edu/rankings

RANKED 4th Best University in INDIA by nirf 2020
THE IMPACT RANKINGS 20: No.1 in India TOP 100 in the World
Recommended as an Institution of Eminence by Govt. of India

Recruitment Drive by Major Corporates
Amazon, Infosys, SAP Labs,Cerner, Texas Instruments, Accenture, Cognizant, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, HP, The Hindu, Mathrubhumi, Flowers TV, Deccan Herald, Chitranjali Studio, IBM, RedHat etc...
1000+ placement offers in the last 3 years for MCA, M.Com, BCA, B.Com, BBA & B.Sc Visual Media

- Learner Centric Value based Education
- Latest industry oriented updated curriculum
- State of the Art Studio, Photography Studio, E-learning facilities

B.Com Professional Accounting Taxation & Finance
BBA | M.Com
BCA | BCA Data Science | MCA
Integrated BCA - MCA
B.Sc Physics, Chemistry, Maths/Computer Science
M.Sc Chemistry | B.Sc Visual Media
Integrated B.Sc - M.Sc Visual Communication
M.Sc Visual Communication
- Digital Film Making & Media Production
- Animation & Design
M.A in Visual Communication | Advertising, Designing & Content Authoring

Visit us: https://www.amrita.edu/asas/mysore/
APPLY ONLINE https://aoap.amrita.edu/mysore/
8296230123, 8296220123
8792911234, 8951311234
0821 - 2548600/ 2973999
mysuruadmissions@amrita.edu
#114, 7th Cross, Bogadi II Stage, Mysuru,Karnataka, India - 570026

COVID-19 HELPLINE

MYSURU
0821 - 2424111
0821 - 2957811
0821 - 2957711

For victim's funeral contact MCC
94498 - 41195
94498 - 41196
0821 - 2418800

Telecare
2420112/113
0821 - 2330803
0821 - 2331803

MANDYA
08232 - 224248

District War Room
08232 - 229393

Maddur Taluk
08232 - 232010

Malavalli Taluk
08231 - 242277

Srirangapatna Taluk
08236 - 252029

Pandavapura Taluk
08236 - 255128

Nagamangala Taluk
08234 - 285045

K.R. Pet Taluk
08230 - 262227

KODAGU

COVID Hospital
08272 - 220606

District Helpline
08272 - 221077

Madikeri
08272 - 228396

Virajpet / Ponnampet
08274 - 256328

Somarpet
08276 - 282045

CH'NAGAR
95386-74839
1077

Kollegal Taluk
08224 - 252046

Gundlupet Taluk
08229 - 222225

Yelandur Taluk
08226 - 240029

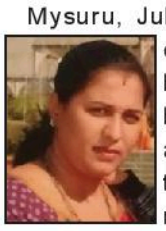
Hanur Taluk
08224 - 268032

For **COVID ASSIST** log on to website:
https://starofmysore.com/star-covid-assist/

Three booked for extortion using Darshan's land papers

Actor's friend in Mysuru blackmailed by woman who posed as a Bank Manager

Mysuru, July 12 (BCT)- A case has been booked at Hebbal Police Station alleging that attempts had been made to obtain a loan fraudulently by forging the property documents of Sandalwood actor 'Challenging Star' Darshan.



Aruna Kumari

The complaint was filed on July 3 by Harsha Melantha, who is Darshan's friend, against three persons including Aruna Kumari, a Bengaluru-based woman who claimed to be a Bank Manager, Madhukeshava and Nandeesh.

The trio allegedly blackmailed two businessmen using the forged documents. Producer Umapathi, who is also the actor's confidante, said that he had also lodged a complaint of cheating in this particular case at Jayanagar Police Station in Bengaluru.

Last evening, Darshan, accompanied by Umapathi, gave their statements to the Police at the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Narasimharaja Sub-Division.

Darshan's friend Harsha Melantha runs 'Mysore Union Club' at Hebbal. On June 16, producer Umapathi called Harsha and asked him whether Darshan had given his property documents to Canara Bank at Southend Circle to obtain a loan of Rs. 25 crore.

A planned con job

In his complaint, Harsha said that Umapathi told him that Aruna Kumari, claimed to be the Manager of the Bank, had given him the details. Umapathi then shared Aruna Kumari's phone number. Harsha called Aruna Kumari and the latter told him that the property papers were indeed submitted to the Bank for a loan of Rs. 25 crore and she was coming to Mysuru to see the land and asked Harsha to meet her at Hebbal Ring Road.

Actor Darshan addressing media persons in Mysuru yesterday.

As per plan, Harsha met Aruna Kumari along with Zilla Panchayat Member Rakesh Papanna, who is also Darshan's friend. Aruna Kumari produced the copies of the loan application purportedly filed by Harsha in the name of Darshan and also the copies of the actor's property papers.

"Seeing the documents, I denied that I had applied for any loan. But Aruna Kumari insisted that I had indeed applied and threatened me by saying that I had forged Darshan's property papers to obtain the hefty loan and blackmailed me that she would book a Police complaint and also draw media attention on me for cheating," Harsha stated in his complaint.

Threat to expose

After the threat, Harsha asked Aruna Kumari if there was a way to get out of the case. "That's when she told me that I could pay Rs. 25 lakh. When I again denied that I have not submitted the papers and the papers did not carry my signatures and wanted to see the original papers, Aruna Kumari, accompanied by Madhukeshava and Nandeesh, asked me to come to the Bank along with Rs. 25 lakh to check the documents and also settle the case," he stated in his plaint.

Deciding to unearth the case, Harsha visited the Bank at Southend Circle on June 17 to meet Aruna Kumari. There, the actual Manager Shivani told him that the Bank does not have Aruna Kumari as Manager. "Aruna Kumari again called me on June 19 and demanded Rs. 25 lakh to settle the case and started blackmailing me," Harsha stated in his complaint.

'No one has blackmailed me'

Rakesh Papanna told *Star of Mysore* that they had a suspicion that Aruna Kumari was up to cheating using Darshan's forged property documents and as such, the complaint was filed at Jayanagar in Bengaluru and Hebbal in Mysuru.

Speaking to reporters at the ACP Office yesterday, Darshan said that he had come there to give his statement. "My property papers have been forged and no one has blackmailed me. The Police investigation will have to unearth how someone like Aruna Kumari got access to my property papers," he said and added that he will not spare anyone including his friends if they are involved in the forgery and blackmailing.

DCP reacts

DCP (Law and Order) Pradeep Gunti clarified that the Police had not called Darshan for investigation in the case. "We have taken up the investigation of the complaint lodged by Harsha at Hebbal Police Station on July 3 and no arrests have been made so far and we have not come to any conclusion," he said.

GTD open to option on fielding supporters as independent candidates in ZP, TP polls

Mysuru, July 12 (RKB&DM)- Chamundeshwari JD(S) MLA G.T. Devegowda (GTD), who has maintained a distance from the party for the past several months, said that he was open to the option of fielding his supporters as independent candidates in the forthcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) and Taluk Panchayat (TP) polls after discussing with his followers.

GTD

Speaking to press persons here on Sunday, GTD said that the ZP and TP polls are likely to take place in the month of December and he does not mind fielding his supporters as independent candidates.

Noting that the Assembly polls is still about two years away, he said that he has a long time to decide on which party to contest from. He does not mind contesting even as an independent candidate, he asserted.

Contending that though he was elected on a JD(S) ticket, he has stayed away from party activities for the past several months, the MLA maintained that he is not associated with any other party either.

Confirming that JD(S) Supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda had asked him (GTD) not to leave the party and also to work towards bringing JD(S) back to power in the next Assembly polls, he said that he, however, has to take an appropriate decision considering his future in politics.

Claiming that the voters have showed affection on him and his son G.D. Harish Gowda, GTD said that he would contest from Chamundeshwari again while his son Harish Gowda may contest from any one of the three Assembly segments — Chamaraja in Mysuru city, Hunsur or K.R. Nagar — either from a political party or as an independent candidate.

Obituary

Beemahalli Mahadevappa

Mysuru, July 12- Beemahalli Mahadevappa (80), a resident of Veeranagere, passed away this morning at his residence in city.

He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, three sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in Veeranagere this afternoon.

M. Marichowdaiah

M. Marichowdaiah, a retired Head Master at Dhanagalli Government High School and a resident of J.P. Nagar, passed away in city. He leaves behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill.

Karagappa

Karagappa alias Karaganna (92), son of late Chamanna and a resident of K.G. Koppal, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at K.G. Koppal Burial Grounds this morning.

Moganna

Hunsur: Moganna (60), a retired Assistant Director of Akshara Dasoha of the Education Department, passed away in the town. He had retired from service on June 30.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the family's farm land in Kalegowdanakoppal village yesterday evening.

Miraculous escape for passengers as KSRTC bus swerves into roadside ditch at Gopalaswamy Hill

Gundlupet, July 12 (SOMG&KS)- Forty passengers, who were coming down the Gopalaswamy Hill after visiting the temple atop the hill, had a miraculous escape after the KSRTC bus in which they were coming down the hill slipped into a roadside ditch atop the hill yesterday.

The KSRTC bus was ferrying the devotees to the foot of the hill, when the bus driver, in a bid to avoid hitting a jeep coming from the opposite side, lost control of the bus and swerved the bus to his left side resulting in the left side wheels of the bus slipping into the roadside ditch.

Had not the bus driver used his presence of mind, a major disaster would have taken place if the driver had swerved the bus to his right side.

As the main door of the bus was pressed against the hill, passengers were rescued through the emergency exit of the bus and the jeep belonging to Kallipura Forest Development Committee has suffered damage.

Details: With Sunday being a holiday, hundreds of devotees visited Gopalaswamy Hill to have *darshan* of the deity at Gopalaswamy Temple atop the hill. In this backdrop, KSRTC had deployed eight buses to ferry devotees to the hill top and back.

While one of the bus was ferrying devotees down the hill, the vehicle belonging to Kallipura Forest Development Committee came in front of the bus and the jeep driver, on seeing the bus reportedly stopped the vehicle in the middle of the road.

The bus driver, on seeing the jeep stopping on the middle of the road suddenly, swerved the bus to his left side to avoid ramming into the jeep and in the process, the left side wheels of the bus slipped into the roadside ditch and tilted towards the left side. As the bus tilted to the left side, the door was pressed against the hill and the passengers had to come out of the bus through the emergency exit. KSRTC officials said that the bus was pulled out of the ditch with the help of a crane later.

Tourists, devotees throng the hill, Bandipur in large numbers: After the lockdown was relaxed and weekend curfew lifted, hundreds of tourists and devotees began to arrive at Bandipur and Gopalaswamy Hill. As private vehicles are not allowed atop the hill, KSRTC had deployed eight buses to ferry devotees to the hill top.

From morning till evening, more than 3,000 visitors visited Bandipur and Gopalaswamy Hill.

Following recent rains, Bandipur has turned green and tourists going on safari have sighted variety of wild animals including tigers. Hence, more tourists are arriving during holidays and weekends, said Gopalaswamy Hill Range Forest Officer (RFO) N.P. Naveen Kumar.

Man commits suicide

Mysuru, July 12 (MK&KS)- A 40-year-old man has committed suicide by hanging self at his house on Saturday night.

The deceased is Mahesh, a resident of Gandhinagar in city. A construction worker, he was said to be addicted to liquor and was rendered jobless due to COVID-induced lockdown. Depressed over this, Mahesh reportedly hanged himself at his house on Saturday night, when his family members were away, according to Police. A case has been registered at N.R. Police Station.

National Paper Bag Day

Paper bags distributed to roadside vendors

Mysuru, July 12 (PM&KS)- In a bid to discourage public from using plastic covers and bags, and to create awareness on the harm caused to the environment by plastic, National Paper Bag Day is being celebrated on July 12.

On the eve of the celebration, Paradise Scouts Group and Pragathi Guides Group of Bharat Scouts and Guides, in association with Pragathi Pratishtan, prepared paper bags and distributed the same to roadside vendors free of cost yesterday.

Members of Scouts, Guides, Rovers, Rangers and Pragathi Pratishtan, who assembled at Bharat Scouts and Guides premises yesterday morning, prepared about 500 paper bags under the guidance of retired teacher Saraswathi Suresh and distributed them to roadside vendors besides creating awareness on the ill-effects of plastic.

Pragathi Pratishtan President Dr. Ajay Kumar Jain, Manager Kavyashree, Member Rohini and others were present.

Nurse Meenakshi loves to serve Corona patients

Mysuru, July 12 (YDS&SSV)- "I chose this profession to serve patients. I have a sense of satisfaction for serving Corona positive patients without fear", said 54-year-old Meenakshi, who works as Staff Nurse at Periyapatna General Hospital.

She has been working as nurse for the last 23 years. She started her career from Maddur General Hospital in Mandya district and then came to Periyapatna General Hospital in 2010. In the last two years, Meenakshi has been working as Corona Warrior. Since last few days, she is working at Seth Mohandas Tulsidas COVID Care Centre.

"I have absolutely no fear working here. My husband is giving full co-operation to work as Corona Warrior. He never says to sit at home out of Corona fear. Instead, he encourages me to serve patients without fear as my profession gets more respect in society."

Meenakshi, Staff Nurse

Meenakshi said that Corona patients did not fight with them.

"Most of them enter the Hospital with fear and they will be counselled before testing the oxygen level. Oxygen is given only if necessary. We feel good if patients recover and go back home; feel sad if they succumb to virus. Sometimes I feel how to wear PPE kit and do duty. But that thinking disappears once I see plight of patients. I eat food and drink water only after taking off the kit. Despite all these hardships, I still love to work."

Abracadabra...

Old is Gold

By K.B. Ganapathy

Following the scent of R.K. Narayan

[Published on 5.5.1978]

From my memory book, I learn that I read 'Guide' by R.K. Narayan during the first week of November 1962. It was the time I was obsessed with Somerset Maugham. Naturally, I could not resist comparison, however odious it may be. Narayan appeared to me like a neophyte in front of Maugham.

Earlier, I had read at random 'The Financial Expert' and loved the tragic-comic character of Margayya immensely and had an urge to communicate with the author and in fact wrote him a letter after securing his address from 'who is who' among authors or some such book. I did not deserve a reply or the letter did not reach him.

Yesterday, I got scent of his visit to Manasagangothri's English Department and kept my line of communication tuned-up. The moment I got the information about Narayan's arrival I rushed. There he was in flesh and blood. As ordinary looking as you and I. Both in appearance and demeanour. Very unassuming for all his name, fame and talent. He was a surprise. In fact he looked like one of those simple characters from his own novels.

He obviously suffers from long-sight because he wears thick concave glasses. A receding pate with grey mane skirting it, short beak of a nose, an average height and girth make up his physical appearance. If I was ever foxed by appearance it was yesterday. All in all I loved the man and his words (both spoken and written).

Now compare this gentle, creative genius with that bovine, haughty young literary upstart Dom Moraes. Perish the thought. I remember attending one of his 'meet the students' circus in a South Bombay College. He came there with his latest acquisition Leela Naidu. After the initial flattering platitudes by the Lady Principal, the honourable guest mounted the platform, his face impassive, flicked a 555 cigarette, lighted it, puffed it and then lo and behold the first thing to come out of his loose lips was a puff of grey smoke. More on

our own, inimitable Narayan tomorrow and nothing on that Moor from Goa. **—PUCK**

RKN denied tutor's job

[Published on 6.5.1978]

It is said that when one fails in all ventures, he becomes a writer. If this is so, that was what happened to our own celebrated writer and novelist R.K. Narayan (RKN). According to what he told a group of post-graduate English students of Manasagangothri a couple of days back, he was turned down a Tutor's job in the Maharaja's College. Of course, what was Maharaja's College's loss was the literary world's invaluable gain. It is no matter of conjecture what a great loss it would have been. Thinking of loss, Narayan mentioned that by dealing with film 'goondas' a conscientious author like him would lose both his morals and money. He was very bitter about his experience with film people. Perhaps Dev Anand had helped him gain this unsavoury experience.

I remember myself turning hysterical, laughing like one possessed, while reading his article entitled, I think, 'Misguided Guide' wherein he had dealt in delightful detail about circumstances, situations, people and all that happened in the selling of the film rights of his novel 'Guide' to Dev Anand and thereafter during shootings. I can never forget till my death this particular incident.

Once I was tickled into laughing, every second line I read with moistened eyes (I start getting tears in my eyes while laughing) only added to the humour which was still being enjoyed by me. I was laughing in fits and starts like a lunatic, became a nuisance to others and I was not in control of myself at all. A point came when the lady librarian requested me to leave the place and return after I regained my balance. Readers may feel that I am exaggerating. No. This happened in the U.S.I.S Library, Bombay and the article had appeared in the 'Life' magazine.

I have since read a few pieces by Narayan published in 'The Illustrated Weekly of India'. But they were all flat. Narayan will never excel that one piece which was packed with humour, sarcasm, wit and bite. Oh, Narayan, Narayan, won't you do it again?— **PUCK**

Bequeathing legacy

[Published on 8.5.1978]

According to a book I was reading last Sunday afternoon, among the peoples of the ancient world there are three who bequeathed a legacy that is living power at the present day. Those three peoples are the Hebrew, the Greek and the Roman.

The book "The Legacy of the Ancient World" says that the creations of their genius, namely the Hebrew prophecy; the philosophy, poetry and sculpture of Greece; the law and political organisation of Rome are a heritage of lasting inspiration to mankind. Agreed.

But what happened to Hindus? We have lost out to others? So I closed the book and did some introspection. Think of *Vedas* and *Upanishads*. They may date back to periods beyond the genesis mentioned in the Old Testament or the famous Dead-Sea scrolls. Do they mean nothing to the author of this book? Perhaps I am being parochial in outlook.

Have not our ancient sages and saints bequeathed any legacy good enough to be mentioned along with the Hebrews, Greeks and Romans?

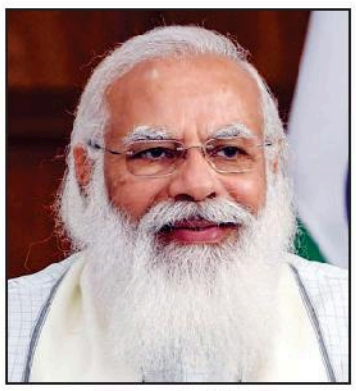
Well, I am not worried. I shall contact our own history genius Mr. P.N. Oak, who is a Past-Master in re-writing history. **—PUCK**

NOTE: *In the beginning Abracadabra column did not carry a headline like in later days. For some years it only had a pen name 'PUCK' for its author.—**Ed***

e-mail:voice@starofmysore.com

People's Padma

Nominate inspiring individuals: PM Modi



Narendra Modi

New Delhi, July 12 (Agencies)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday asked the people of the country to nominate inspiring people for the Padma Awards, which he called People's Padma (with a hashtag).

The last date for nominations for Padma Awards is Sept. 15. "India has many talented people, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots. Often, we don't see or hear much of them. Do you know such inspiring people? You can nominate them for the #PeoplesPadma. Nominations are open till 15th September," PM Modi said in his tweet.

Modi also posted a link to the Padma Awards website where people can post their nominations. The tweet comes as the Government has launched an initiative to identify such people who are working at the grassroots. The Union Home Ministry has urged all Central Ministries, States and other awardees to identify people whose excellence and achievements deserve to be recognised.

In his first 'Mann Ki Baat' address of the year in January, PM Modi had urged the people of the country to learn about "unsung heroes" who work selflessly.

The Padma awards — Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan — are among the highest civilian honours awarded by the Indian Government on the Republic Day's eve after being recommended by a Padma Awards Committee.

The awards have been facing controversy over some time now. The Modi Government has been trying to introduce greater transparency in the award process and earlier launched an interactive dashboard of all the awardees since the awards have been given.

Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.

No illumination of Palace

Mysuru, July 12 (BCT&SBD)- For the record, Mysuru, a city's economy that is driven by tourism, received only 7.08 lakh tourists flow in 2020-21 (April 2020 and March 31, 2021) when compared to 2019-2020 where 36.28 lakh tourists descended on the city. On an average, Mysuru gets 35 lakh to 37 lakh tourists every year.

Mysore Palace Board Deputy Director T.S. Subramanya told *Star of Mysore* that "All the bio-safety measures are in place and enough precautions have been taken like sanitisation and COVID-appropriate behaviour even if there are more than 10,000 visitors per day as in pre-pandemic days,"

Added attractions at the Palace are illumination on Sundays and public holidays and the sound-and-light show. However, the State Government has not permitted these activities.

"Owing to hundreds of people gathering at the Palace to witness the illumination and the sound-and-light show, we have not got permission. Will notify in advance if we get a nod," Subramanya added.

Food & Civil Supplies Dept. holds first-ever Phone-in Programme

Ration Card holders complain on FPS collecting internet fee

Mysuru, July 12 (RKB&DM)- The first-ever phone-in programme conducted by the Food and Civil Supplies Department in the district today, saw a number of Ration Card holders complaining about collection of internet fee of Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 by some **Fair Price Shops (FPS)** from every card holder.

The hour-long phone-in programme took place between 11 am and 12 noon at the office of the Joint Director of the Department located in the new Deputy Commissioner's office in Siddarthanagar. Of the 47 calls received during the programme, 31 were from the city alone.

Most of the complaints were that some of the Fair Price Shops in the city and district were collecting a Internet and WiFi service fee of Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 illegally, though there is no provision for such a collection from either BPL or APL card holders.

The Department officials who clarified that no Fair Price Shop is authorised to collect such a fee, they said that action will be taken against erring Fair Price Shops.

Other complaints were on under-weighing of ration grains, irregular opening of Fair Price Shops, absence of the phone number of the jurisdictional Food Inspector and other issues concerning ration arrivals and distribution. Queries were also received regarding the procedures, along with the documents required for getting BPL and APL cards and the ways for addition/ deletion of names and any other corrections regarding address, details of card members etc.,in Ration Cards.

Food and Civil Supplies Joint Director M. Shivanna, Assistant Director M.K. Ramani, Office Manager Satish, SDA Shashidhar Nayak, Programmer Nagendra Hebbar and other staff took part.

Phone-in Programme every Monday

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* Food and Civil Supplies Joint Director M. Shivanna said that today was the first Phone-in programme and from now on, this hour-long programme (11 am to 12 noon) will take place every Mondays of all months.

Pointing out that the service commission for Fair Price Shop owners has been increased from Rs. 65 to Rs. 100 per quintal, which includes all charges including internet, Shivanna said that action will be taken against Fair Price Shops if there are complaints of collection of a fee from Ration Card holders.

Reiterating that shop owners cannot collect the fee, he said that any complaints regarding distribution of ration can be immediately made to the respective Food Inspector or other officials of the Department.

Intelligent Transport System needs intelligent handling

LED board at one of the bus shelters in city displaying bus numbers and timings this morning.

(Continued from page 1)

As part of the ITS, commuters could get information about arrival and departure time of buses, the route it will take and stoppage time on a real-time basis. Besides, all the 105-odd bus shelters in the city had LED boards that displayed real-time information about the schedule of buses. Commuters could also check the display board inside the bus for information.

The system enabled passengers to have the arrival and departure of buses at their fingertips. It cut down passenger waiting time and provided details of bus movements either by sending an SMS or through the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).

World-class assurance only

A round-the-clock tracking of the bus fleet — fitted with GPS — at the central control station also ensured that drivers do not indulge in rash driving. The project was a collaboration between the Centre and the Global Environment Facility, an independently operating financial organisation that funded projects to improve the global environment.

When the project was launched, it boasted that passengers would get world-class bus services both in terms of comfort and in assurance of time schedules. The control consoles at the City Bus Stand were to resemble the Airport Traffic Control system. M&E Consultants carried out modal and temporal studies for the performance of ITS between 2012 and 2015.

They conducted surveys of passengers, analysed secondary data for different parameters and periods, mathematical models were worked out and based on them provided recommendations to improve and maintain the ITS-based city bus services.

Took years to streamline

In fact, despite recommending several measures, the ITS system was in the process of getting stabilised for many years and by 2017, ITS-based bus services were in tatters. Replacement of old and dilapidated buses was hugely delayed and the KSRTC did not introduce additional new buses due to various reasons.

Volvo buses were in bad shape and core personnel involved in the implementation and management of ITS left the job. Consequently, passengers were back to confronting a million faults with the bus services. Now it is further worse with the entire project turning out to be a big waste of money.

Sadly, the project was allowed to degenerate and the city has been deprived of whatever good public transport this project had provided to the passengers.

COVID, less routes reason

"Due to COVID we were not operating buses for many months both last year and this year. I agree that the earlier-built ITS infrastructure needs a facelift. But even now we are operating limited service. Once there is a chance to operate full and packed services, we will restore the facilities in phases. Also, earlier we were operating 375 routes every day. Now we are operating on a demand-based model."

—K.S. Nagaraju, KSRTC Divisional Controller (Urban)

Construction workers seek hike in relief package, stage protest

Mysuru, July 12 (PM&KS)- About 30 construction workers, under the banner of Karnataka Construction Worker Unions Co-ordination Committee, affiliated to AITUC-CITU etc., urging the Government for fulfilment of their various demands, staged a protest near the Deputy Commissioner's Office this morning.

Their demands mainly included hike in the relief package from Rs. 3,000 per month to Rs. 10,000 per month for three months, transparency in purchase of ration kits, tool kits, compensation to registered construction workers, who had died of COVID and provide medical expenses for workers, recovered from COVID among others.

The protesters said that they had submitted memorandums to the Government seeking hike in the existing relief package from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000, which has been not met.

They said that due to COVID induced lockdown, construction activities were stopped resulting in hundreds of workers being rendered jobless making it difficult for them to earn their livelihood.

They also alleged that Rs. 5,000 relief package announced by the State Government during the first wave of COVID had not reached 1.2 lakh beneficiaries and the officials concerned were giving reasons for not providing the same.

They said that whatever the reasons be, construction workers were suffering and urged the Government to look into the matter at the earliest and provide relief to them.

Wary parents collect SSLC exam hall tickets

(Continued from page 1)

Hundreds of parents arrived at Rotary School to collect admit cards and they were seen posing anxious questions to officials. "Our children are not in a state of writing exam. There is fear. The Government is risking the lives of 8 lakh families, not just 8 lakh students," another parent said.

PIL dismissed: Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court this afternoon dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the conduct of SSLC exam. Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Hanchate Sanjeev Kumar heard the PIL and gave a green signal for the Government to conduct the exams as per the schedule.

The Court said that the Government and KSEEB must ensure all precautions. "The State Government must formulate a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and strictly adhere to the guidelines," the Court ordered.

The PIL was filed by S.V. Singre Gowda. Taking into account thousands of students in rural areas, most of them did not have any facility for online classes and there are many areas where not a single class has been conducted and that is why the exams have to be cancelled, the PIL said.

Vaastu Feng Shui & Bio-Energetics

By **S.B.S. Surendra**, Accredited Master Feng Shui Consultant

Positive times & festivities

The universe is comprised of the interaction of the five elements and so is the internal system of the human body which is also made up of these five elements. When we are surrounded with symbols that generate positive energy, the Body, Mind and Soul is at peace, the aura is in balance and in turn it motivates the individual to bring out the best.

The authentic Feng Shui analysis for a structure is based on many vital data like orientation of the building, compass directions, main door orientation, interaction of elements, the natal charts of the individuals, yet, one can tap into the positive energies in a premises by placing, carrying specific symbolisms or adapt décor and colours which are supportive.

We literally mirror our environments and it is a known fact that like attracts like and vibrates in harmony. The mystical actually influences the practical hence adapting appropriate Feng Shui enhancers and cures in the specific sectors of a building can truly bring in abundance.

Feng Shui can be adapted not just for design, construction or renovating a building but also on special occasions like festivals which can usher in Yang energy.

• You can cleanse the energy of your home by burning bay leaves, sage or sandalwood. Make sure to walk slowly around your home and allow the burning aroma to seep into each corner and crevice.

• Fresh flower decorations bring in a fresh breath of positive energy into the house. Flower garlands on the main door are a great way to attract auspicious energies into the house. But do remember to remove them the moment they start to wilt or else the prosperous energy wouldn't take long to turn sides.

• To wish someone good health and a long life, a gift of jade is highly prosperous. Jade has a nourishing and calming energy, and is symbolic of balance and serenity. Jade comes in many colours, though it's most commonly seen in shades of green.

• To attract positive Chi into your environment, place a healthy potted plant with shiny round green leaves in a gold coloured pot in your home. The green leaves representing wood signify growth and gold coloured pot sprouts this new growth in your life.

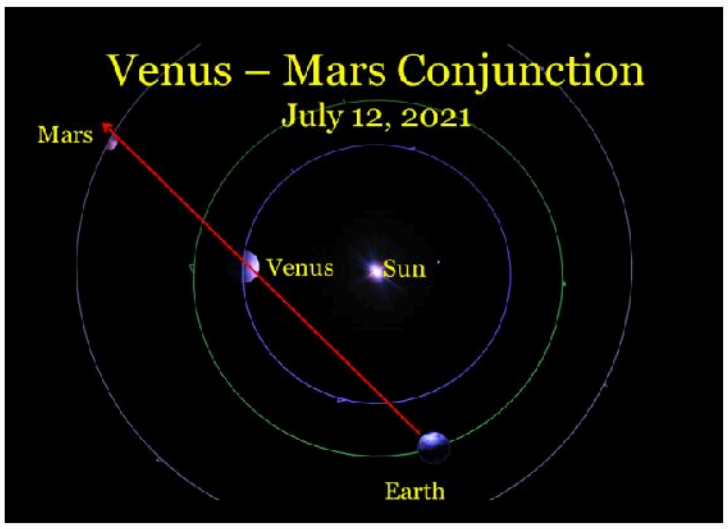
• Decorating the home and the foyer with handmade lanterns in shades of red and yellow or lighting coloured earthen lamps is auspicious. Coloured earthen lamps with ghee or linseed oil in multiples of four signify the combination of wealth, prosperity and growth.

• Placing metal art décor or figurines, suspending oriental metal coins (round coin with a square hole) above the main door empowers the entry with metal energy.

[fengshui@fengshuiserver.com]

SKYWATCH

Sporadic Conjunction of Mars and Venus with Moon on July 12, 13



In a celestial event termed 'planetary conjunction,' Mars and Venus are expected to be 0.5 degrees apart as observed from Earth, though they are truly further apart. Many astronomy and space-related organisations, observatories, planetariums, observational astronomers and astronomy connoisseurs/ aficionados have stated that the conjunction will also include the Earth's Moon coming close to within four degrees of the planets. The three-celestial-body conjunction can be observed in the sky from July 8 till July 13 for anyone who wants to catch the apparent coming closer of Mars and Venus. They are expected to move away progressively after July 13.

The year 2021 has been very favourable for planets to line up gracefully and exhibit their exquisiteness and sumptuousness. Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn have been dominating since 2020 and have experienced closer encounter with planet Earth.

Skywatchers are in for an astronomical extravagance as two of Earth's neighbouring planets, Mars and Venus, are expected to come closest to each other in the sky on July 12-13. The moon will also pass closest to the two planets on July 12. This will be perceptible to the naked eye and can be witnessed in the western horizon under clear weather conditions just after Sunset.

The most celebrated planets, Jupiter and Saturn, were closest to each other in the sky on Dec. 21, 2020 appeared only a tenth of a degree apart. They remained in close alignment for a few days and were effortlessly evident to the naked eye when looking toward the southwest just after Sunset. Great conjunction of 2020 marked the first time in nearly 800 years since the planets aligned at night and astronomy enthusiasts were able to witness this rare celestial spectacle.

The planetary orbits of Saturn and Jupiter brought these planets into alignment once every 20 years or so, 2020 marked the first time since 1623 that the two gas giants have passed this close to one another. The conjunction on July 16, 1623 was not conspicuous to skywatchers on much of the Earth because of its location in the night sky, so the last time the event was discernible was on March 5, 1226. The date of the planetary conjunction was determined by the stipulated positions of the gas giants — Jupiter, Saturn and the Earth in their trajectory around the Sun, while the date of the solstice is determined by the tilt of Earth.

In a celestial event termed 'planetary conjunction,' Mars and Venus are expected to be 0.5 degrees apart as observed from Earth, though they are truly further apart. Many astronomy and space-related organisations, observatories, planetariums, observational astronomers and astronomy connoisseurs/ aficionados have stated that the conjunction will also include the Earth's Moon coming close to within four degrees of the planets. The three-celestial-body conjunction can be observed in the sky from July 8 till July 13 for anyone who wants to catch the apparent coming closer of Mars and Venus. They are expected to move away progressively after July 13.

The planetary alignment will be observable only from Earth. It can be viewed from anywhere in India in clear skies. Both planets can be spotted aligned in the same frame through telescopes or binoculars. The angles of the paths are set to be slightly different for northern parts of India. In astronomy, a conjunction occurs when any two astronomical objects such as asteroids, moons, planets and stars seem to be close together in the sky, as observed from Earth.

The Moon's thin crescent will hover near the planetary pair the two previous evenings, offering striking views to astrophotographers with clear western skies. On the evening of 11th July, Venus will lie 5.5° southeast of the ultra-thin crescent Moon (5 percent illuminated), which will set about 90 minutes after the Sun. The planets themselves will appear just 1° apart, a distance that is nearly cut in half the following evening. On 12th July, Venus will stand just over 7° west of the 10-percent-illuminated Moon, which sets coarsely two and a quarter hours after the Sun. It will be its usual dazzling self, shining at apparent magnitude –3.9. Mars, unfortunately, will be quite a bit fainter, glowing at magnitude 1.8. That means Venus will be 190 times brighter than Mars, so we will have to let twilight dwindle some for us to be able to spot the red planet. Both celestial objects lie in the constellation Leo the Lion.

The refulgent planet Venus and red planet Mars remain fixtures of the early evening sky throughout July 2021. Venus will be blazing away in western sky some 40 to 45 minutes (or sooner) after Sunset. Mars won't pop out in the purlieu of Venus until dusk gives way to nightfall. Mars starts out the month above Venus and ends the month below Venus. Day by day, Venus climbs upward, away from the setting Sun. Day by day, Mars sinks downward, toward the setting Sun. The lunar crescent helps to guide to Venus and Mars at dusk/ nightfall from July 11 to 14. Unpretentiously bright Mars is objectively easy to see in a dark sky. But it might be hard to spot Mars next to Venus from mid-and-far northern latitudes, where these two worlds set before nightfall. The next Venus-Mars conjunction will occur on Feb. 22, 2024. On that date, 38' will separate the pair, which will lie in Capricornus in the morning sky, 26° west of the Sun. In order to see a pairing between Venus and Mars as close as the one this month, we will have to wait until May 11, 2034. So, do not forget to see to this planetary conjunction on July 12-13.

—Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna
Amateur Astronomer

Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them.

—Louis Armstrong

Online Live Concert Commemorates Birth Centenary of Francis Xavier

A Musical Genius

This year being the 100th Birth Anniversary of **J. Francis Xavier**, a musical genius, a Live Concert was held to pay homage to his life and contributions to western music in Mysore.

Born on 1st July 1921 in Mysore, Francis Xavier was the first-born of M.S. Joseph and Annie Josephine couple. He had six younger brothers and four sisters. His father, a descendant of Goan origin, was the church organist and a woodwork designer for St. Philomena's Church.

Francis Xavier, also fondly known as 'Francis Sir,' was a household name in music circles during his time. He completed his music studies at the Good Shepherd Convent, Mysore, which was his second home; he went on to successfully complete his musical exams in Piano under the tutelage of Irish Nuns like Mother Maurice and Sr. Passion. His initial years of music training moulded his life.

In July 1941, he joined the famed Palace Band and Orchestra as a violist, which was under the baton of Otto Schmidt, a German Director of Music, D'Fries and other greats who were directly employed by the Maharaja to foster western music in Mysore. He enhanced his musical expertise with them. He went on to become the Assistant Band Master. His association with the Mysore Royal family spans decades. A smart young pianist, he was entrusted as a private piano tutor for most of the Royal family members. He would play the piano, accordion, almost all stringed instruments. His acumen to arrange and orchestrate music for a full orchestra earned him a good name and respect across the best musicians in the country.

Church music was part and parcel of his life and St. Joseph's Cathedral was his musical playground. Francis Xavier, apart from being the pipe organist of the Cathedral, conducted the choir, which comprised Latin services. Rev. Fr. Feuga, who was then the Parish Priest of the Cathedral, encouraged him to take up the pipe organ, which was brought from France and installed. His innumerable composition of the hymns and tunes are well-orchestrated and in use to this day.

He trained his younger brothers, late Felician Anthony and Felix M. Joseph to become versatile and accomplished musicians, who went on to become Band Masters of the famed Karnataka Government Band. Felix, who is now retired, is a much sought-after music teacher in Mysore.

Francis Xavier in Karnataka Government Band Dress and Traditional Palace Band Dress.

Late J. Francis Xavier (Piano) and his brother Felix M. Joseph (Cello) during one of their jamming sessions.

Francis Xavier during a teaching session at Good Shepherd Convent, Mysuru.

Francis Xavier married Dorothy E. Francis in 1970 and has two children — Noeline Margaret Francis and Aaron Christopher Francis — who are also into music. The next generation of musicians of the M.S. Joseph family continues with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They say there is no retirement to musicians. Thus Francis served in many diocesan schools and institutions teaching singing, piano, violin and other instruments.

Francis Xavier retired as the Assistant Band Master in 1978 and went on to become the music teacher of St. Joseph's Institutions till 1990. He later was the music teacher for the Good Shepherd Convent till he expired on 21st May, 1997 after a prolonged illness.

He was a household name in almost all the Convents in Mysore, especially for his direction of musical theatre, choir and instrumental groups. Many of his students are pass outs of the Trinity College of Music exams and quite a few are abroad and in good positions musically. His association with the Church of South India (CSI) is noteworthy. He regularly played the organ at the Anglican Churches and had many pupils there who fondly remember him to this day.

During his lifetime, he had trained many young men from downtrodden families as musicians and secured them jobs at the Karnataka Government Band and Orchestra. These musicians in turn served the Church choir making St. Joseph's Cathedral to have its own symphony orchestra, possibly the first in the country. He was also known for his jovial nature.

As a tribute and to mark his 100th birth anniversary, his family members had organised an online music concert on the 1st of July via Facebook Live with students and friends performing from across the world. The artistes at this musical event included Violin Virtuoso **Mysore Manjunath** and his son **Sumanth Manjunath, Klaus Graf** and **Michael Schlierf** - Saxophone and Piano from Germany, The Emirates Symphony Orchestra arranged by **Neil Mario** and **S. Benjamin** from Dubai, **Rohin Joseph -** Piano, **Shadrach Solomon & Rachel** - Piano and Voice, **Christopher Horner** - Violin from UK, **David Hobourn** - Pipe Organ from UK, **Archana Bennur** - Vocals from USA, **The Reuben Brothers, Saishiv -** Mridanga, **Charulatha Ramanujam** - Violin, **Samuel Nesan** - Flute, **Felix Joseph & Aaron Christopher** - Violin & Piano and a host of performers that included the students of St. Cecilia's School of Music and family members. Rachel Francis introduced the programme while Noeline Francis proposed a vote of thanks.

Rt. Rev. Dr. K.A. William, Bishop of Mysuru, addressed the online gathering.

WORD OF THE DAY

Kerfuffle

Pronunciation: ker·fuf·fle.
Meaning: A disturbance or commotion typically caused by a dispute or conflict.
Origin: Fuffle was first used in Scottish English, as early as the 16th century, as a verb meaning "to dishevel." The addition of the prefix car- (possibly derived from a Scottish Gaelic word meaning "wrong" or "awkward") didn't change the meaning of the word considerably. In the 19th century carfuffle, with its variant curfuffle, became a noun, and in the 20th century it was embraced by a broader population of English speakers and standardised to kerfuffle. There is some dispute among language historians over how the altered spelling came to be favoured. One theory holds that it might have been influenced by imitative words like kerplunk, where the syllable ker- is simply added for emphasis.
Example: Predictably, the royal scandal caused quite a kerfuffle on Fleet Street.

THE ODD WORD

Kakistocracy

Government by the worst.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Between a rock and a hard place

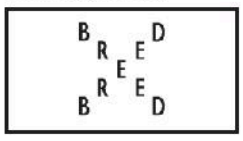
Meaning: A very difficult position; facing a hard decision.
Origin: The origin of the phrase 'between a rock and a hard place' can be found in ancient Greek mythology. In Homer's Odyssey, Odysseus must pass between Charybdis, a treacherous whirlpool, and Scylla, a horrid man-eating, cliff-dwelling monster. Ever since, saying one is stuck between a rock (the cliff) and a hard place (the whirlpool) has been a way to succinctly describe being in a dilemma.
Example: "I'd like to help you but I am stuck between a rock and a hard place."

QUOTE BOX

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. **—Anne Frank**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:



Answer: Cross breed.

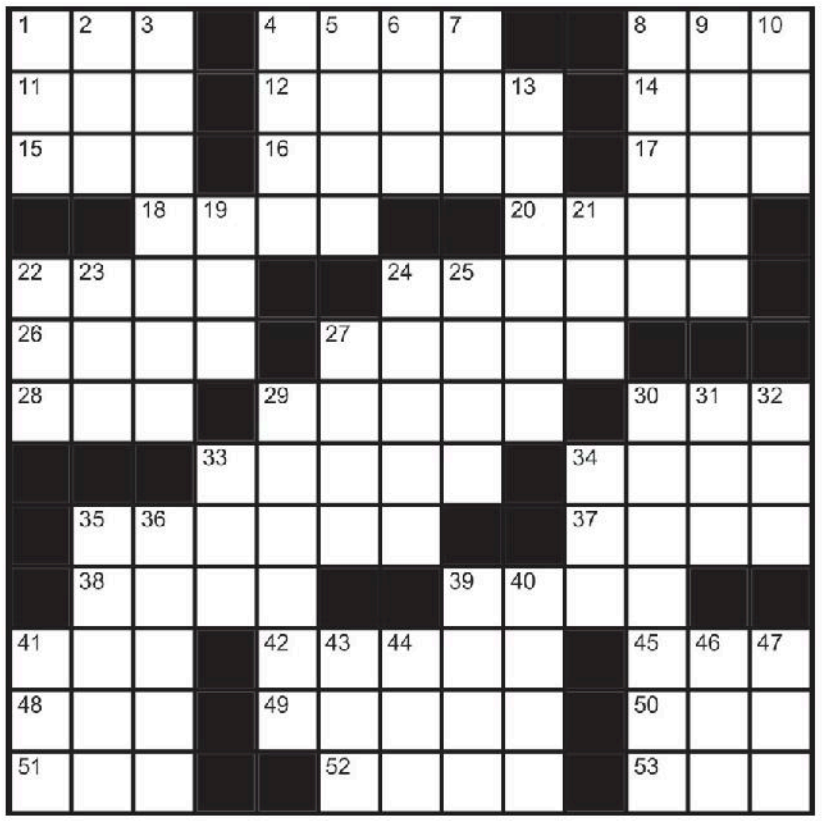
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Calendar abbr.
4 Origin or source
8 Telegu Desam Party, acronym
11 City in Nigeria
12 Arsenal's local rivals
14 Haw's partner?
15 Deity of Babylonian religion
16 Curriculum ____ : bio-data?
17 Integer, in short?
18 Manage
20 Copies slavishly?
22 Sweetheart
24 Bombard heavily
26 Ever present as a prefix
27 Risks or braves
28 Sticky substance
29 Yielded
30 National Chemical Laboratories, acronym?
33 Of high birth
34 Material for a fire
35 A score
37 Energy source
38 The ceiling of our flat?
39 Landlord's income
41 Some Assembly Required
42 Fit out
45 Our air-force in short
48 Strike ___ :have good luck, especially financially?
49 Indian coin
50 The day before
51 And for the German
52 Poetic word for 'island'
53 Beam of sunlight

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

T	C	A			P	A	V		S	K	A	T
I	O	N			A	T	A		E	I	N	E
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N		M	E	T	A
		C	O	N	C	L	U	S	I	V	E	
M	I	D	S	T		L	A	W	N			
A	G	O					T	O	A	S	T	
D	E	T	A	C	H		U	P	R	O	A	R
	T	E	R	R	A					O	L	A
			R	A	N	N		M	A	T	C	H
	C	H	A	N	D	I	G	A	R	H		
M	L	I	I		S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E
L	O	N	G		A	B	A			N	O	T
A	T	T	N		W	E	N			C	I	S

DOWN
1 Point of a pen
2 Have debts
3 Erupting mountain
4 Invitation letters
5 English painter
6 Make ____ : discern or understand?
7 ___ la la... : song humming?
8 Burglar
9 Thick
10 Make a fuss of
13 Scorched or cauterized
19 French assent
21 Step in ballet
22 Swamp or morass
23 Rock music style
24 Unhappily or tragically
25 Oak for example
27 Money taken as loan which is still not returned?
29 Consult together
30 More eccentric
31 Chief executive officer, in short
32 Law professor's degree
33 Modern prefix
34 Cooling device
35 Educate or tutor?
36 Planet
39 Monetary unit of Cambodia
40 Fencer's blade
41 Old French coin
43 French for 'who'
44 Bull periods
46 Actress Gardner
47 Whimsical; strange



SUDOKU

			2				6	
6	1					4		
	2			7		3		
	5	6	9					
4		3				2		6
					3	1	8	
		5		3			1	
		1					4	8
	7				5			

Answer to previous puzzle

2	5	3	6	7	1	4	9	8
1	4	8	3	5	9	6	2	7
9	6	7	8	4	2	5	3	1
8	2	5	4	6	3	1	7	9
3	9	1	5	2	7	8	4	6
6	7	4	9	1	8	2	5	3
7	8	6	2	9	5	3	1	4
4	1	2	7	3	6	9	8	5
5	3	9	1	8	4	7	6	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

GU DAZ'KX IXJXK MTQKXP AK XLVQKKQMMXP AK

RZKH, GH LXQIM DAZ IXJXK HQFX QID TRQITXM.

TODAY'S CLUE: X EQUALS E

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The truth is the kindest thing we can give folks in the end.

Wimbledon 2021

Novak Djokovic wins 20th Grand Slam

London, July 12- Novak Djokovic won a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Wimbledon on Sunday with a four-set victory over battling Matteo Berrettini of Italy.

The World No. 1 triumphed 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to move level on 20 Majors with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

His win also put him 3-quarters of the way to the first calendar Grand Slam of all four Majors since 1969.

A sixth victory at the All England Club for Djokovic, who was playing in his 30th final at the Slams, added to his nine Australian Opens, two Roland Garros titles as well as three at the US Open.

Should he win a fourth title in New York in September, he will become just the third man in history after Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962 and 1969) to complete the calendar Grand Slam.

The Serb also now has 85 career titles while he has become the first man to break the $150 million prize money barrier.

Renovated gym at Chamundi Vihar Stadium to be opened soon

Mysuru, July 12 (MK&SSV)- A gymnasium at Chamundi Vihar Stadium is undergoing renovation to become full-fledged to cater to health conscious citizens and sports persons.

If everything goes well, it will be ready for inauguration in the next one or two months.

This will slowly open up sports activities which had remained suspended for many months due to COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL), this gymnasium is being renovated at a cost of Rs. 28 lakh. Works such as lighting, mat, fan and air-conditioning are being done. The equipment have been provided by the Department. Only a few works were pending. This kind of gymnasium cannot be found anywhere in the district, G. Omprakash, Assistant Director, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES), told *Star of Mysore*.

> Chamundi Vihar Stadium did not have a well-equipped gymnasium. Plans are afoot for the Football Stadium. Our Stadium has been selected for 'Khelo India Sports Meet' Centre.
>
> **—G. Omprakash, Asst. Director, DYES, Mysuru**

The gymnasium is renovated to improve health of general public and sports persons in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

This state-of-the-art gymnasium will start functioning within one or two months. Over 700 sports persons have taken membership and also obtained the ID card. The renovated gymnasium helps around 200 sports persons who are residing at Chamundi Vihar Stadium Sports Hostel.

Omprakash said, while private gymnasiums charge a minimum monthly fees of Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000, the Department gymnasium is planning to charge Rs. 1,000 per month. Health conscious people can make use of the modern equipment at very low fees.

The inmates of the Sports Hostel would be allowed to use the gymnasium free for three days in a week. The gymnasium will be allowed to be used by the sports persons with ID card and the registered general public.

A lot of people work out in gymnasium during the rainy season to be physically fit.

Lionel Messi-led Argentina wins Copa America, ends 28-year wait

Superstar Lionel Messi won his first trophy with his national team as Angel Di Maria's goal gave Argentina a 1-0 win over hosts Brazil in the Copa America final on Saturday. The victory at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium ended Argentina's 28-year wait for a major trophy and also ended Brazil's unbeaten home record that stretched back more than 2,500 days. Argentina had last tasted success at a major tournament in 1993 when the great Gabriel Batistuta's brace gave them a 2-1 win over Mexico in the Copa final in Ecuador.

THOLASI JEWELS
Fine Jewellers Since Generations
22 CT Gold Rate
₹ 4,465/- Per Gram
Ashoka Rd, Mysuru. Ph: 2521926 / 2441926
Temple Rd, V.V. Mohalla, Mysuru. Ph: 2411926

LALITHA JEWELLERY MART
The Original
Mysuru's Trusted Jeweller
SILVER RATE
Rs. 71,000/-
SINCE 1956
76/1, Ashoka Road, Mysore - 01
Ph.: 0821-2442797 / 2525891

STAR OF MYSORE
FOR ADVERTISEMENT
Please Call: 0821-2496522 / 23
Email: ad@starofmysore.com

SITE FOR SALE
Around 6000 sqft.,
Commercial / Residential Site
Loyal World opposite Road,
Jayalakshmipuram, Mysore.
Contact: 6366842299

SPA.ce the Spa
MASSAGE & FACIALS
WE ARE OPEN NOW OFFER 25%
Fortune JP Palace
Mob : 8310799599

Computech (Four branches)
95354 71160
DELL hp
Price Dropped
CALL for Best PRICE with Model Number
EMI available

Domestic, International Courier & Cargo Service Available
FOR DOOR STEP PICKUP / BOX PACKING
DTDC Delivering Value
Call : 77952 72582
0821-2444655

Adhar Gold Company
We buy your pledged gold without any wastage and service charges on TOUCH PURITY basis & pay the balance amount on the spot, within 1 year you can buy back the same without any wastage and making charges.
99641-31865 / 99641-31735

Bottle Packed Fresh Cow Milk
Call: 9741439110
Areas Covered:
• Bannimantap
• Yadavagiri
• Rajiv Nagar
• N. R. Mohalla
50 ₹ Fresh milk 1000 ML

FOR RENT
3 BHK Independent Ground floor house on 50x80 North facing site in Kuvempunagar, near Chikkammaniketana, Mysore. Call: 9845159655

WANTED MANAGER
REQUIRED MANAGER
for an Institution in Mysore with good experience in Education Field.
Mail your resume to:
managerpost99@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT
at Bannimantap, Mysore
Contact: 9686306475

DIRECT 10th & II PUC!!
This is the right time to complete your discontinued study. Learn safe from home through our excellent online coaching & printed notes. 100% Result from 10 years.
www.direct2puc.com
Join free. Free coaching for I & II PUC Accounts also
9844355941/9482674031

Are you getting value for your advertising cost?
You will, when you advertise in
STAR OF MYSORE
Mysore's Favourite & Largest Circulated English Evening Daily
VALUE

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

With deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Yogesh Kumar N** on 12th July' 2021. You will always be remembered by Family, Friends & entire rProcess team.

REGISTER BRIDE AND GROOM PROFILES OF KANNADA SMARTHA BRAHMINS IN MATRIMONY WEBSITE
http://www.hoysalakarnatakabrahmins.com
Contact:
Suma Gopalakrishna on 9886908152

STAR OF MYSORE
Mysore's Favourite & Largest Circulated English Evening Daily

DISCLAIMER

Readers may make appropriate enquiries regarding the Advertised product with the Advertisers concerned. Star of Mysore shall not be held liable for any consequences or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this Newspaper. — **Management**

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಿತ್ರ
ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆ

STAR OF MYSORE
Evening English Daily

Advertisement Collection Centres in City

Now service at your extensions

for placing your advertisements, please contact our booking centres (Without any service charges)

CITY OFFICE 1
114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mezzanine Floor,
Opp. SAMSUNG Authorised Service Centre,
Mysuru-570 001. Ph: 0821-2428695
Open from 10.30am to 2.00pm & 4.30pm to 8.30pm including Sundays

CITY OFFICE 2
3rd Floor, Vishveshvaraiah Building, K.R. Circle,
Mysuru-570 001. Ph: 0821-2431774
Open from 10.30am to 1.30pm & 2.30pm to 6.30pm including Sundays

VIVEKANANDA NAGAR
KUMAR STORES
902, Vivekananda Circle, Mysuru
Ph: 0821- 2560820 / 0821-2562119

KUVEMPU NAGAR
SRI KUMAR MEDICALS
61, 'M' Block, Nrupatunga Road, Opp. Urban Legacy, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-23
Ph: 0821-4243346

KUVEMPU NAGAR
KUMAR MEDICALS
#102/A, Panchamantra Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-23
Ph: 0821-2544976
Mob: 7204925050

KUVEMPU NAGAR
VINAYAKA BOOKS & STATIONERIES
LIG-124, Panchamantra Road, near Akshaya Bhandar, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-23
Mob: 99002 52529

SARASWATHIPURAM
MAHAVEER JEWELLERS
2961/12, 4th Main, 5th Cross, Mysuru
Ph: 0821-2525400
Mob: 9845861856

T.K. LAYOUT
SRI BASAVESHWARA FANCY & STATIONERIES CENTRE
#141/3, 8th Main, 8th Cross, Opp. Nagalingeshwara Temple, Mysuru-09. Ph: 0821-2340453
Mob: 9945779947

JAYALAKSHMIPURAM
SRINIVASA ENTERPRISES
Shop # 6, Old MCC Building, KD Road, next to KVR Ruchi Centre, Mysuru - 12
Mob: 9964982228/ 8050473454

VIJAYANAGAR
MANAK GIFT CENTRE
369, Railway Layout, 2nd Stage, Vijayanagar, near Indira Nursing Home, Mysuru
Mob: 9845353574
We accept Credit Cards

NEAR VIDYA PEETHA CIRCLE
NAGANANDA ENTERPRISES
332, Ramanuja Main Road, Opp. Shivanna Cycle Shop, Khille Mohalla, Mysuru-570 004
Mob: 9916017038

SIDDARTHA NAGAR
SUJATHA TRAVELS
825, Axis Bank Building, Vinaya Marga 2nd Stage, Siddartha Nagar, Mysuru - 570 011
Ph: 0821-4194848
Mob: 9902269988

VIDYARANYAPURAM
NESARA STATIONERIES
1064/1A, Suez Farm Road, 1st Main, Vidyaranyapuram, Mysuru
Mob: 9886681313

Advertising Department
0821-2496523
94485-25060
98805-49879

Want to Advertise in
STAR OF MYSORE & ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಿತ್ರ (MYSURU MITHRA)
Call: 94485-25060 / 89516-68960 / 98805-49879
STAR OF MYSORE- Email: ad@starofmysore.com | MYSURU MITHRA- Email: ad@mysurumithra.com

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.